

Owen arrives in Jeddah

JEDDAH, May 12 (R). — British Foreign Secretary David Owen arrived today on a two-day visit and had talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. The official Saudi press agency said they exchanged views on the Middle East situation, the world economic situation, and bilateral relations. Dr. Owen told the official Saudi press agency the European Common Market was ready to back up the United States if it encountered difficulties in its efforts to find a solution in the Middle East. But Western Europe knew that the United States would play a major role in the search for a settlement. The British foreign secretary said he would also be having talks here with Crown Prince Fahd.

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Carter: No hope for peace until Palestinians given homeland

WASHINGTON, May 12 (AFP). — President Jimmy Carter, in a press conference today after his first presidential trip abroad, said there was no hope for peace in the Middle East until the Palestinians were given a homeland.

Mr. Carter, who attended the Western nations and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation summits in London earlier this week, and who met with Sy-

rian President Hafez Assad in Geneva, at the same time stressed continuity of the "special relationship" between the United States and Israel as another condition for peace.

President Carter said that none of the Arab leaders he has so far met has raised any objection to the United States' intention to continue protecting Israel's "integrity".

The meeting with Arab leaders had been encouraging, he

said, but "the chances of peace in the Middle East are still a long way off".

He added that he had had no contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

It was indispensable for a lasting political settlement, he said, that the Palestinians recognise the existence of the Israeli state.

President Carter described his European trip as a success and said that in his view the London economic summit had produced new hope and a new sense of confidence for the Western powers.

Meanwhile, President Carter said he had not yet taken a final decision on whether he will visit France towards the end of the year.

He confirmed that President Giscard d'Estaing had invited him to visit France and he said such a visit would be possible if congress approved the administration's legislative programme before the end of the year.

Carter's arms restraint policy "will not affect historic ties with Israel"

WASHINGTON, May 12 (R). — The White House said today that President Carter's policy of restraining arms technology transfer abroad would not affect the historic relationship of the United States to Israel or U.S. support for its security.

A one-sentence statement was issued after the president conferred with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on an amendment to foreign aid legislation that would expand the transfer of American arms technology to Israel.

The amendment, to be considered by the committee later today, urges the Carter administration to agree to more expansive transfers than it now

favours while it reviews policy guidelines.

A number of senators have stated previously that the president's attitude did not sufficiently recognise Israel's weapons requirements and the need for it to join the United States in the co-production of arms.

Among the senators at the meeting with the president was Hubert Humphrey, one of the sponsors of the amendment.

The White House statement said the group met Mr. Carter to discuss the administration's arms transfer restraint policy "and how it could be made clear that our policy will not affect our historic relationship with Israel and our support for its security."

Bhutto does not expect political settlement soon

ISLAMABAD, May 12 (R). — Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said tonight that a quick settlement of Pakistan's two-month-old political crisis was not likely.

He opened a press conference at the National Assembly with the words: "I have nothing exciting to report," adding that a dialogue was necessary with the nine-party opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) to reach a political solution.

Mr. Bhutto dampened speculation that he had reached a compromise agreement with the PNA, which charges that he rigged general elections in March and has demanded his resignation and fresh polling.

Since opposition to the polls, agitation and ensuing violence have cost at least 25 lives and disrupted most major cities and towns and seriously affected the economy.

Mr. Bhutto himself had encouraged speculation about an imminent breakthrough when he said earlier this week that he hoped some conclusion would

be reached within a day or two.

He said today he was still hopeful and was trying hard to resolve the crisis.

Mr. Bhutto confirmed he had a meeting last night with the PNA chief, Maulana Mufti Mahmud.

Contrary to newspaper accounts which reported the meeting took place at the prime minister's house, Mr. Bhutto said he drove to the Sindhia detention camp outside Rawalpindi where Maulana Mufti and other PNA leaders are held.

Mr. Bhutto declined to go into details of his discussions with Maulana Mufti, except to say the PNA leaders had promised to send him a written reply today.

Acting PNA President Pir Pagara, the only opposition leader not arrested, said later the reply was being sent to Mr. Bhutto tonight. Mr. Pir Pagara, not sounding optimistic about a settlement, told reporters the reply would be made public within the next few days.

Mr. Bhutto said that, seen from the air, Kasaji resembled a ghost town yesterday. Deserted and abandoned.

Kasaji straddles an important crossroads and is situated on the Zaire national railway, which links up in neighbouring Angola with the British-owned Benguela rail line.

A manganese-producing town, it had been the objective of a cautious government advance



As U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance (right) exchanges pleasantries with Spain's King Juan Carlos, Spanish Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja (centre) breaks into a broad smile.

Vance, Suarez discussed Spanish NATO membership

MADRID, May 12 (Agencies). — American Secretary of State Cyrus Vance left here today for Tehran after a 20-hour visit to Spain and talks with Spanish leaders.

Mr. Vance's talks with King Juan Carlos, Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez and Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja centred on future Spanish membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Observers said the talks were also considered to be a demonstration of U.S. support for the government of Mr. Suarez as a representative of centrist political tendencies as the June

15 elections approach.

The American support is expected to be accentuated when Vice President Walter Mondale visits Spain next Tuesday, less than a week before the opening of the election campaign.

Mr. Vance left Madrid after chairing the first session of the Spanish-American council which reviewed preparations for a joint annual forces general staff.

The general staff's operations could begin "within 40 days", Mr. Oreja said, and headquarters have been chosen.

American sources said the goal of the combined headquarters would be to help Spain attain the level of other NATO nations in military equipment in preparation for its eventual membership of the organisation.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Gen. George Brown, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, represented Washington at today's meeting.

The U.S.-Spanish treaty called for the creation of the military staff with headquarters here and defined its task as formulating plans for a response "in case of an attack against Spain or the United States in the context of a general attack against the West."

The treaty did not provide for U.S. military intervention in case of an attack against Spain and differed in that respect from America's commitments to its allies in the 15-nation North Atlantic Alliance.

A joint communiqué issued after today's council meeting also said it had heard a report from an ad hoc committee on coordination with NATO, but did not give any details.

Mr. Vance said he had used his stay in Madrid to brief the Spanish government on the results of the recent London summit of seven leading non-communist industrialised nations and the subsequent NATO meeting.

The U.S. Secretary of state told a news conference before leaving for a session of the Central Treaty Organisation (Cento) in Tehran that his meetings in Spain had been "excellent, very instructive, friendly and warm."

"It was a good first meeting of the council, and I look forward to future meetings and the strengthening of ties between our two nations," Mr. Vance said.

President Carter's call for the NATO allies to increase their fire-power to meet the challenge of the 1980s was formally endorsed by the 15-nation alliance yesterday at the end of a two-day London conference.

The outcome was a tribute to the U.S. leader on his first overseas foray into international diplomacy, where he was hailed by British Prime Minister James Callaghan as a true leader of the Western World.

Mr. Carter won virtually unanimous backing from the European allies for his proposal to "initiate and develop a long-term programme to enable NATO forces to meet the changing defence needs" of the next decade.

With France as the only major power sitting on the sidelines, the allies agreed to try to match Mr. Carter's pledge to boost U.S. armed strength as a counter to the Soviet military buildup in Europe. They agreed to report on their progress at another NATO summit scheduled for Washington next spring.

NATO defence ministers charged with the task of working out new priorities for the alliance are due to meet for a

Allon says at press conference: U.S. does not intend to recognise PLO

LONDON, May 12 (AFP). — The United States has assured Israel that it is not intending to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation and does not expect Israel to do likewise, Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said here today.

He told a press conference that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had renewed these assurances yesterday.

Punctuating his points with blows on the table, Mr. Allon insisted that Israel would not accept the creation of a "third state" (Palestinian) in any circumstances but was ready to accept a "Jordanian-Palestinian federation."

The PLO no, Palestinians yes, a separate Palestinian state no, a Jordanian federation yes," he said.

He rejected as false reports — also denied by Palestinian leaders — that under certain conditions the PLO was ready to recognise the existence of Israel.

Mr. Allon said he had been pleased to learn from Mr. Vance that the expression "homeland" for the Palestinians (referred to in the past by U.S. President Jimmy Carter) was also a "question to be negotiated among the interested parties."

He added: "I am sure that the Palestinian problem will be solved by negotiations."

Referring to the Geneva conference on the Middle East which he hoped to see held this year, Mr. Allon said the United States, far from imposing a solution, would limit itself to preparing for it carefully, in making propositions privately to the parties concerned.

The Israeli minister denied that Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouët-Boigny whom he had met in Paris, was planning to act as a mediator in the Israeli-Arab conflict.

On U.S. President Jimmy Carter's Geneva meeting last Monday with Syrian President Hafez Assad, Mr. Allon stressed his belief in the importance of improved relations between the U.S. and the Arab states.

He expected the prime minister of the new Israeli cabinet would go to Washington. "After that we are expecting Mr. Vance to visit the Middle East again, and then everyone will know better what the prospects are for a re-convening of the conference."

Mr. Allon denied that any pressure towards a settlement had been placed on Israel by the United States. He said: "No American pressure has been felt in Israel."

He expressed satisfaction with the statements on the Middle East already made by President Carter, and stressed that Israel had been reassured by the Americans that they did not intend to publish any proposals before the parties involved had a chance to react to it.

"America will confine itself to the role of offering good offices to both parties," he said.

Referring to his talks on Africa with British Foreign Secretary David Owen, Mr. Allon said the situation there was so dangerous that "compared with Africa, the Middle East is a paradise."

He added that Israel would totally oppose any bid to transform the Red Sea into an

"Arab" sea and any closing of the Suez Canal.

Emphasising the "important role" that the European Economic Community (EEC) could play in seeking a solution to the Middle East conflict, Mr. Allon nonetheless said he hoped the community would refrain from "new statements" which "are read by the Arabs with a microscope" and risked misinterpretation.

Such declarations could only encourage the "stubbornness" of certain Arabs, he said.

Mr. Owen, as current chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers, had assured him that the council would support U.S. initiatives on the Middle East, said Mr. Allon.



GESTURE — Israeli Foreign Minister Allon gestures during press conference he gave at the Royal Garden Hotel in London Thursday. (AP wirephoto).

1 man killed, 13 injured in major blaze at Saudi Arabian oilfield

JEDDAH, May 12 (R). — Oil spewing from a ruptured pipeline began a major blaze at a big Saudi Arabian oilfield, killing one man and injuring 13 others, a spokesman for the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco) said tonight.

Production was halted at the Abqaiq field, Saudi Arabia's second biggest onshore oilfield producing about one-tenth of the kingdom's oil.

The fire, which broke out yesterday, was now under control, the Aramco spokesman

said, although pools of spilled oil between specially constructed overflow dykes were still ablaze.

The casualties were identified only as Aramco employees. The spokesman did not confirm a report quoting the Japanese Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Tateo Suzuki, saying six or seven people, including British and American nationals, were killed.

The fire heavily damaged a pumping station plus a number of oil and gas pipelines as well as other installations, the spokesman said.

The blaze was the worst in the 33-year history of Aramco, which produces most of Saudi Arabia's oil.

The country's biggest oilfield, at Ghawar west of Abqaiq, pumps its oil past Abqaiq but it is not clear whether pumping of Ghawar crude is affected.

The Aramco spokesman said engineers were working on a plan to bypass the damaged installations, and a full assessment of the damage was expected soon.

The Aramco statement did not say what caused the pipeline to rupture. There was nothing to back up reports circulating abroad that saboteurs were involved.

In Japan, which gets about 30 per cent of its oil from Saudi Arabia, the yen fell sharply as foreign exchange operators feared that the fire might disrupt supplies.

The Bank of Japan sold an estimated \$200 million on the foreign exchange market to try and stem the rush to buy dollars.

NATO sets itself on "Carter's course"

LONDON, May 12 (R). — The Atlantic Alliance set itself today on a "Carter course" designed to build the military strength of the West while still extending a friendly hand to the Soviet Union.

President Carter's call for the NATO allies to increase their fire-power to meet the challenge of the 1980s was formally endorsed by the 15-nation alliance yesterday at the end of a two-day London conference.

The outcome was a tribute to the U.S. leader on his first overseas foray into international diplomacy, where he was hailed by British Prime Minister James Callaghan as a true leader of the Western World.

Mr. Carter won virtually unanimous backing from the European allies for his proposal to "initiate and develop a long-term programme to enable NATO forces to meet the changing defence needs" of the next decade.

With France as the only major power sitting on the sidelines, the allies agreed to try to match Mr. Carter's pledge to boost U.S. armed strength as a counter to the Soviet military buildup in Europe. They agreed to report on their progress at another NATO summit scheduled for Washington next spring.

NATO defence ministers charged with the task of working out new priorities for the alliance are due to meet for a

Lebanon intends to ask for more U.N. observers along borders with Israel

BEIRUT, May 12 (AFP). — Lebanon intends to ask for an increase in the number of United Nations observers along its border with Israel, according to the Beirut newspaper Al Nahar today.

It said the Lebanese government had consulted the United States on the matter, believing that more U.N. observers would help to relax tension in the border area.

For several weeks sporadic fighting has been taking place on the Lebanese side of the border between rightwing Christians, said to be aided by Israel, and militia of the leftist-Palestinian alliance.

But Al Nahar said the United States did not regard Lebanon's proposal as the best solution and suggested it wait until moves were in progress to

solve the Middle East conflict as a whole.

U.N. observers have been in position along the Lebanese-Israeli border ever since the two countries signed an armistice in 1949 after the first Arab-Israeli war.

In a separate development, the hardline Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said today its forces ambushed an Israeli tank in Israeli frontier territory and killed its five occupants.

The front said in a communiqué released here that the attack took place last night. The tank was part of a patrol heading towards southern Lebanon with munitions and supplies for isolated Lebanese Christian villages, the front said.

It is the first reported incident of its kind for many weeks.

Zairese troops retake strategic Kasaji

KINSHASA, May 12 (R). — Zaire announced today it had retaken the strategic southern railway town of Kasaji from rebels after an air bombardment by French-built jets.

It was the first report of major progress by Moroccan-supported government troops in the province of Shaba for over two weeks and there were indications that President Mobutu Sese Seko was expecting a lengthy campaign to flush the insurgents out of the area, formerly Katanga.

The government forces have been trying to push the rebels back towards the Angolan border, to the west.

The official news agency Azap said Kasaji fell last night

but President Mobutu ordered that its reoccupation after almost two months in rebel hands be postponed until this morning.

The Zairese leader was today moving into new headquarters in the copper town of Kolwezi, some 270 kilometres east of Kasaji.

From there he plans to conduct all political, economic, military and diplomatic business. No date has been given for his return to Kinshasa, and observers said his establishment of the headquarters at Kolwezi indicated he was anticipating a protracted conflict in Shaba.

Azap said Mirage fighter-bombers had been used against Kasaji, 120 kilometres west of government forward headquarters at Mutshatsha, which was retaken by the Zairese forces on April 25.

Egypt last month sent in pilots and technicians for the Mirages, but there was no immediate information on whether the Egyptians had been involved in the bombardment.

The official newspaper Salongo said today that, seen from the air, Kasaji resembled a ghost town yesterday. Deserted and abandoned.

Kasaji straddles an important crossroads and is situated on the Zaire national railway, which links up in neighbouring Angola with the British-owned Benguela rail line.

A manganese-producing town, it had been the objective of a cautious government advance

west from Mutshatsha on a snaking dirt track, laced with rebel mines.

Azap did not give details of any ground fighting for the town — the last major settlement before the border half of Dilolo, which is likely to become the next major objective for the government.

Zairese forces are also reported to be moving in two other areas farther north, heading for the rebel-held towns of Sandoa and Kapanga, which fell to the insurgents early in their two-month-old campaign.

President Mobutu says the invaders came from Angola in March with Soviet and Cuban backing but these three countries deny involvement in the insurrection.

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Dead weight

The latest twist to the absurd situation prevailing in the Middle East is that Israel is now bargaining with the United States over the transfer of sophisticated arms technology instead of bargaining with the Arabs over peace terms.

It is sad that the reflex action of Israel, on sensing pressure to make peace, is to escalate the stakes in the game of war. It is equally lamentable to witness the irresponsibility of certain U.S. senators who are egging Israel on this course of action.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has before it an amendment to foreign aid legislation that would expand the transfer of U.S. arms technology to Israel beyond the limits favoured by the administration. That amendment was sponsored by such purported friends of Israel as Senator Hubert Humphrey.

One really wonders if these senators know what disasters they are inviting on the head of a country over whose safety and well being they profess such great concern. To go along with Israel on this point is to chart ever new inroads of insanity into a situation that calls for wisdom and foresight, a commodity that could prove to be truly scarce, even on Capitol Hill -- unless the amendment is defeated.

Let's put our cards on the table. What need does a country have for sophisticated arms technology if it is seriously intent on concluding a peace agreement that will extract it from the only war in which it is involved?

It is absurd to suppose that a country at Israel's level of technological development could seriously enter into the gruelling and exorbitantly expensive world armaments race. The required research alone far outstrips Israel's modest capacities. Therefore, Israel is asking that one of the superpowers should simply hand it on a silver platter what it could not dream of producing itself. To what end?

Israel is in fact asking for the means to break off its dependence on the United States as its supplier of arms, a demand that is tantamount to asking the U.S. to surrender one of the most important tools of pressure that could bring Israel to the conference table?

The momentum towards peace in the Middle East seems quite unable to make any headway against the immense inertia on Israel's part. Unfortunately, certain U.S. senators are adding their own dead weight to that very inertia. We can only hope that wisdom will triumph in the end.

What price bedouin lifestyle? (II)

Text and photos by
Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

The systems of health insurance or social security that we devise are matched by systems in bedouin society that carry out essentially the same functions. The hierarchical organisation of bedouin society includes strict codes of conduct based on honour and loyalty, with an overriding sense of communal family or tribal responsibility. What bedouin society takes care of by its traditions of family unity, our societies take care of by social security, health insurance and, in what we call "advanced" societies, by emerging codes of corporate codes of ethical responsibility. One senses that if a bedouin were to listen to a discourse about the environmental impact of a Concorde supersonic jet, he would already have a good idea of what it is all about.

Thus it becomes inappropriate to suggest that a bedouin's tent is "dirty" by our standards, or that their children are "not properly cared for". From discussions and in-depth interviews and talks with bedouin men, women and children, however, one perceives their own priorities, and their own scale of material values and social attitudes.

For example, the overwhelming majority would like to have formal education for their children, and regret that they did not have it for themselves (primarily, it seems, because they had to leave school at an early age to help in the family chores).

But while education is perceived as a good thing, many parents are not as keen about educating their daughters as they are about their sons. Furthermore, most parents feel their single daughters should not work outside the home.

Rigid sex roles are at the heart of bedouin society, an integral part of the social system that has emerged from centuries of desert life. At many of the elementary schools run by the army throughout the badia, crowds of little boys run around, but usually little girls are nowhere to be seen. They are at home.

Without exception, bedouin women who were asked how many children they would like to have always replied "as many as God will give us." Asked similarly about their children that had died in infancy, they reply to the effect that questions of life and death are matters in the hands of God. Life and death, perhaps because they are both so frequent, and in a perpetual race against each other, are the core of the bedouin's fatalistic attitude. In the desert, one does not question life and death any more than one questions shade, rainfall or crop harvests.

There are levels of prosperity and poverty among the bedouins that correspond to those of

urban societies. In some parts of Wadi Araba, between Aqaba and the Dead Sea, some people still live under trees, in both summer and winter. To get through the winter months, they scoop out the earth underneath the tree to offer more protection against the rain and cold. The tree branches are covered with bits of cloth, paper or other such matter that can be found in one's travels, smaller branches or animal hides, in order to provide shelter from the sun and wind. In one remote area of Wadi Araba, a lone farmer who lives under a tree sees visitors once a month. He has two trees, one for winter and one for summer.

His neighbour, who lives several kilometres away in a traditional tent, complains about malaria a few years ago, and says the water is still not good. He carries around a pair of binoculars.

In another part of the great southern valley, a woman spends the afternoon hours making thread from goat's hair. She says it takes her one year to make a piece of cloth one metre wide and 40 metres long. It takes five such pieces to make a full-size tent (or "beit sh'eer" -- house of hair -- as the bedouins call it). Once erected, a tent will stay up for several years. The cloth of a tent will last about 20 years, after which it will fray badly and fall apart. Many of the bedouins who settle in small communities and move into small cement houses will often set up their tents outside their homes -- to be used by the animals that they keep around, such as chickens, sheep or goats.

In some cases, settled bedouins express disappointment at the sedentary village life. If their water supplies are not regular, or a breakdown in the piping system means they have to walk several kilometres daily to fetch water, they complain about the difficulty of living in a new settlement. If they have to find odd jobs to make a few dinars every few days, they also complain. Some of them fondly recall their days as nomads.

Many others are pleased with the security of a regular doctor's visit, daily schooling for their children or weekly wages for their working men. The tanker that brings water to some of the small settlements is an object of constant praise. But if the tanker fails to appear one day, the praise turns to anxiety, and criticism.

In many areas, the bedouins who settle down are providing a source of local labour for whatever work is to be done in the region. In Wadi Araba, they are working on the construction of the new road linking Aqaba to the Dead Sea. In other areas, they are guards, or drivers, or lifters and haulers. In yet other regions, some of them who have been educated in turn teach others.

Generalisations about the bedouins are difficult and dangerous, as are generalisations about any other group of people. But it is clear that the vast majority would give up their nomadic way of life if they could be sure that settling down would bring them some measure of security equal to the security they already have in wandering with their herds. They are amenable to government plans to provide essential services, particularly water, health care and education. But they are dubious and wary in most cases. They know the value of water and the difficulty of having assured supplies, and they require the hard facts of proof before they fold up tents, or relegate them to the chickens in favour of the two-room cement house.

There are mixed feelings throughout the many small government-sponsored settlements in the south. As can be expected, one's level of contentment corresponds directly to one's level of material well-being. There is a clear cut-off point where the security of the nomadic way of life can surpass the harshness of a settled village life where the fuel of life -- money -- is not always available, or not in sufficient quantities. Those settled bedouins who do complain often complain about the high prices of coffee, sugar or rice. Inflation is something the nomad does not have to worry about.

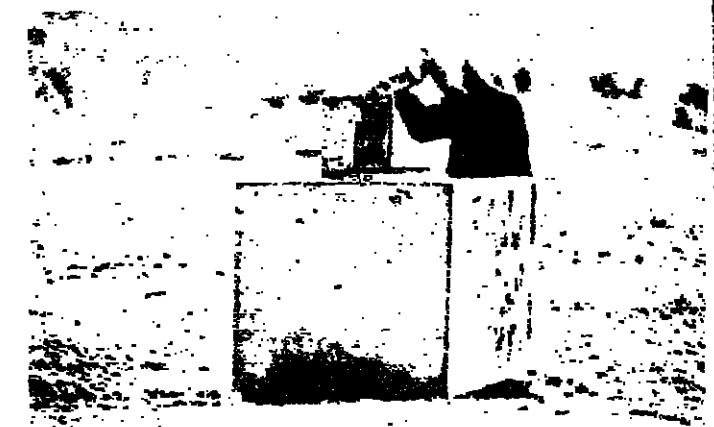
The plans to settle the bedouins are essential to Jordan's plans to develop socio-economic institutions outside the crowded Amman region. Particularly in the southern and eastern regions of the country, the bedouin population must provide the essential settled human presence that is the prerequisite to agricultural development, after which more sophisticated economic and social development plans can be formulated.

A dilemma faces the government because the bedouins will only give up their nomadic way of life if they are assured of a life equally secure for their families, but the government cannot assure them of this until it knows what are the priority needs of the bedouins. The survey that has been carried out is a large step in this direction. Neither in its scope nor its depth is the survey supposed to be a comprehensive census or study of social attitudes. But in its seriousness and its novelty, it is a vital start to providing the bedouins with the things they see as most important to their own well-being.

No doubt, this will only speed up the disappearance of the nomadic way of life. But this may not be such a bad thing if it substitutes a sense of material security for the measure of uncertainty that now forms such a big part of bedouin life. Or is this really so? The truth is that, probably, nobody knows. An effort is underway to find out.



Bedouin woman making yarn from goat's hair.



Filling up with water in Wadi Araba.



ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL DUSTOUR editorially comments on the Israeli lobby in the United States which opened fire on Gen. Brown, Chairman of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff. The paper describes Gen. Brown as one of the best military men in the United States. "The Israeli lobby has built the scaffold for Gen. Brown", the paper says.

The paper recalls that Gen. Brown was one of the most enthusiastic American supporters of Israel during the 1973 war. But what he has done is expressed his disgust towards the power of the Israeli lobby in the United States. He has said that "Israel is a military burden on the United States."

This idea was expressed by the general out of his deep loyalty to the U.S. and not to the Jewish state. The Israelis want him to be loyal to Israel first, a thing which no free American really can accept without the pressure the Israelis always put on American personalities, the paper adds.

The paper links the campaign against Gen. Brown with the White House decision to deprive Israel of priority arms supplies. The Israelis hold Gen. Brown responsible for this decision.

Moreover, the paper says that the Israeli campaign is considered a test to Mr. Carter and his administration.

AL SHA'B comments on the American reaction towards the talks which were concluded between President Assad and President Carter. The American side represented in Mr. Carter and his top aides, has reacted satisfactorily to the talks. It only remains that the United States exercise pressure on the Israelis to stop their daily breach of international laws manifested mainly in their establishment of settlements on the West Bank, the paper says.

The United States has to remove all obstacles that stand in the way of real and just peace in the Middle East.



JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:	18:30	20:00
10:00 Quran	Gunsmoke	News in Arabic
10:15 Cartoons	20:00 News in Arabic	
10:30 Arabic series	Channel 2:	
11:25 Three stooges	19:30 Religious programme	
11:45 Religious programme	20:30 Arabic series	
12:30 Cultural film	21:20 Reportage	
12:45 Arabic series	Channel 6:	
14:00 Varieties	19:30 News in Hebrew	
14:30 Soccer match	19:45 Dr. at Large	
16:00 Arabic series	21:10 Rhineman exchange	
16:25 Arabic feature	22:00 News in English	
	22:15 Kojak	

RADIO JORDAN

7:00	16:00
Breakfast show	Old favourites
7:30 News	16:30 Easy listening
8:00 Sign off	17:00 Science report
8:30 Pop session	17:30 Pop session
12:00 News summary	18:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session	18:30 News reports round-up
14:00 News	18:30 Varieties
14:10 Radio magazine	19:30 News
14:30 Omar Ibn Al Khattab	19:30 Music
15:00 Concert hour	19:30 Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Jahul Hussein (38410)
Amman:	Lubna (44944)
To'meh Faneh (21588)	
Issa Haddad (56578)	
Irbid:	Bashar Awda
Omar Qasrawi (3515)	
Amr Pahloun	
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AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	21:25	21:35
Muscat, Doha	London (BA)	
7:30 Abu Dhabi	Rome (Alitalia)	
7:55 Cairo (CA)		
Departures:	8:30	8:30
Aqaba	Aqaba	
8:30 Beirut	Beirut (MEA)	
8:45 Beirut (CA)	Jeddah, Medina, Ha'il, Tabuk, Jauif, Badana (SDI)	
10:00 Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)		
11:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen		
12:00 Cairo		
12:45 Baghdad		
12:45 Kuwait (KAC)		
18:15 Medina, Jeddah, Tabuk (SDI)		
19:00 Damascus (SAA)		
19:30 Paris, Beirut (AF)		
18:45 Baghdad		
19:30 Beirut (MEA)		
21:05 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa)		
01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)		

BBC RADIO

14:15	14:30
Letterbox	Orb and Scapre
15:00 Radio Newsweek	
15:15 Outlook	
16:00 News: Commentary	
16:15 Science in Action	
16:45 The World Today	
17:00 News	
17:05 Music Now	
17:30 Book Choice	
17:45 Sports Round-up	
18:00 News	
18:15 Radio Newsweek	
18:30 The Chinese in Britain	
18:50 Outlook: News Summary	
19:42 Stock Market	
19:45 Strike up the Band	
20:00 News: 24 hours	
20:30 Be My Guest	
21:00 World Radio Club	
21:15 Sarah Ward Requests	
21:45 Scotland '77	
22:00 News: The World Today	
22:25 Financial News	
22:45 Sports Round-up	
23:00 World News: Commentary	
23:15 From the Weeklies	
23:30 Brain of Britain 1977	

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	03:00	06:00	18:30
The Breakfast Show	03:00, 04:00, 05:00, and 06:00 GMT: News, Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary, 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT: An informal presentation of popular music and feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest, News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary, Forum	18:30 Music (Jazz)	20:00 VOA World Report to News ... newsmakers' voices ... correspondents reports ... background features ... media comments ... news analyses.
17:30	17:30	21:00	21:00
Special English, News, 21:30			

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Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36881-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37113-3
Najdah, rescue patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 38161
Airport information (AIA)	" 21111, 37771
	" 35266
Cultural Centres	
American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41539
British Council	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre	" 37009
Goethe Institute	" 41963
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44388
Amman Municipal Library	" 38111

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Central Bank governor states

Signs point to healthier economy

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan's improved economic health was the message coming out of a press conference given by Central Bank Governor Dr. Muhammad Said Nabulsi Thursday.

He pointed to easier credit facilities, an increased inflow of money from Jordanians working in the Gulf and relaxed restrictions on exporters.

Dr. Nabulsi said that the Central Bank had adopted strict measures since 1974 to counter the sharp increase in credit facilities granted by banks to the commercial sector.

These measures, he added, were effective. Money supply stabilized and settled at its normal annual growth rate of 13 per cent beginning last July. It had exceeded 30 per cent in 1974 and 1975. Following this return to normal, the Central Bank removed credit restrictions.

Jordan's sound economic situation has been confirmed by

the increase in transfers made by Jordanians working abroad, he said. While total transfers in 1975 reached JD 42 million, they attained about JD 100 million by the end of 1976.

On the bank's recent decision to cancel export permits, Dr. Nabulsi said this meant that Jordanian exporters are no longer required to bring back to Jordan the value of their exported goods in foreign currency. They now have the liberty to choose the currency most appropriate to their needs, as Jordan's balance of payments has recently registered a surplus.

The decision will also encourage Jordanians to increase their exports to Arab countries. This is in conformity with the aims of the Arab common market, which calls on Arab states to boost trade exchange, he said.

On the stock exchange to be established soon, Mr. Nabulsi said that the Central Bank had agreed with the World Bank on a training programme for its personnel. The necessary site will be ready during the coming 18 months he said.

The Central Bank agreed to set up a joint investment company between Jordan and the Gulf states. The company will have a capital of JD 5 million to finance industrial and tourist projects, the governor added.

Two banks, the Jordanian-Gulf Bank and the Jordanian-Kuwait Bank, will be set up. A third, a Jordanian-Syrian bank, would deal in commercial transactions and holder joint industries in the two countries, he concluded.

SPANISH NEWS

AGENCY CONSIDERS OFFICE HERE

AMMAN (JNA). — Spain's Europa Press Agency may set up an office here if talks between the agency's deputy chairman and Jordan News Agency officials go well.

The deputy chairman arrived here Thursday from Damascus on a two-day visit at the invitation of JNA. He will exchange views with officials of the Jordanian agency.

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — A civil aviation delegation returned here Thursday after a four-day visit to Kuwait. During its visit, the delegation initiated a bilateral air transport agreement.

* AMMAN. — A specialised committee of the Amman municipal council Thursday decided to name the street opposite the Ministry of Justice after the late Abdul Rahim Al Waked, a former Justice Minister and member of the Supreme Court, who died Wednesday at the age of 69.

* AMMAN. — A South Korean economic delegation led by the president of the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry arrived here Thursday on a three-day visit to Jordan. The team will hold talks with officials on developing trade and economic relations.



Fier Highness Princess Isma hands a badge of merit to one of 20 nurses she decorated for 20 years service in the profession. She was attending a ceremony at the Hussein Youth City Thursday for World Nursing Day.

Prince Hassan visits stores to cut costs

AMMAN (JNA). — In an effort to find ways of cutting costs at governmental storehouses, His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, Thursday made an extensive tour, which took him to the stores of the Jordan Television, Alia, the Ministry of Public Works, the Natural Resources Authority, the Telecommunications Corporation and the central police H.Q. here.

The Crown Prince took note of the nature of the work in these stores, in addition to methods of storage and issue of equipment.

During a meeting presided over by the Crown Prince at the Public Security Department, a debate took place about the Unification of government stores.

Amman official meets Hebron delegation

AMMAN (JNA). — Amman's Deputy Mayor, Mr. Hani Al Dahleh, Thursday met the Mayor of Hebron, Mr. Fahd Al Qawasmeh, and council members.

He pledged to provide all possible help for Hebron to enable it to fulfil its duties towards the citizens of the town.

The delegation from Hebron has just returned from a tour of the Gulf states.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian filis for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
German mark	139.9	140.3
French franc	66.8	67.1
Swiss franc	131.0	131.4
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.3	37.5
Saudi riyal	93.4	93.6
Lebanese pound	108.7	109.1
Syrian pound	80.8	81.0
Iraqi dinar	947.0	950.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,148.0	1,152.0
Egyptian pound	460.0	465.0
Libyan dinar	760.0	770.0
UAE dirham	84.4	84.8

Irrigation schemes complete in two months

AMMAN (JNA). — Work on the Abul Lissan and Wuhaida pilot irrigation schemes in Ma'an Governorate will be completed within the next two months, official sources at the Natural Resources Authority said Wednesday.

The source said the Abul Lissan project -- on the Ma'an-Aqaba road -- will irrigate 1,170 dunums from two artesian wells. A total of 700 dunums will be planted with apples and 400 with vines.

The Wuhaida project -- on the Wadi Mousa-Desert road -- will irrigate 1,700 dunums from two nearby artesian wells. The area will also be planted with apple and vine trees.

The two projects will cost JD 408,000, to be financed by a British loan.

1976 TOURIST ARRIVALS JUMP 50 PER CENT

AMMAN (JNA). — The number of tourists attracted to Jordan in 1976 jumped 50 per cent compared to 1975, a statistical release said Thursday.

A total of 1,063,294 tourists entered Jordan in 1976 as against 708,000 in 1975.

746,056 were from neighbouring Arab countries, 196,503 from non-Arab Middle East and Asian countries, while 67,956 were from Europe and other countries of the world.

Figures showed that 73.1 per cent of the total number of tourists entering Jordan were from Arab countries: Syria 278,784; Lebanon 150,884; Saudi Arabia 103,676; Egypt 31,332; Iraq 31,778; other Arab countries 48,614.

Tourism from Europe registered an increase of 53.8 per cent over 1975.

Syrian firm to build 2 grain silos here

AMMAN (JNA). — The Jordanian government and a Syrian firm Thursday signed an agreement to build two JD 6.5 million grain silos in Amman and Aqaba.

Minister of Public Works, Said Bino, who signed for Jordan, said that the accord provides for the construction of two silos for storing 100,000 tons of grain in Amman and Aqaba, besides the construction of modern equipment in Aqaba for unloading grain vessels at

the rate of 480 tonnes per hour and removing the grain to the silos.

The apparatus will incorporate up-to-date mechanisms for loading lorries and trains with grain from the silos.

Mr. Bino also said that in planning the storage installations in Amman, consideration was given to the construction of a flour mill and fodder plant in the silo area.

Work on the project will start in two months to be completed in two years, he added.

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	7/7/1977	18/7/1977
	28/7/1977	8/8/1977

CRETE :

	Departure	Return
	4/7/1977	13/7/1977
	1/8/1977	10/8/1977

RHODES :

	Departure	Return
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	18/7/1977	27/7/1977
	15/8/1977	24/8/1977

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Industrial nations growth rates will slow this year, says IMF's managing director

WASHINGTON, May 12 (R). — The International Monetary Fund's managing director said today the real economic growth rate of the industrialised countries would slow this year to 4.5 per cent, compared to about 5.5 per cent in 1976.

Mr. H. Johannes Witteveen was speaking in Holland to the Netherlands Christian Employers Union. The text of his prepared remarks was made available to the press here.

He said some modest acceleration of growth was expected this year among the primary producing countries, while the economies of the less developed countries were likely to grow at rates close to their long-term trend.

Despite this slowing in the

industrialised world, there were a number of encouraging signs providing hope for a transition to sound and more sustained economic growth, he added.

He said there was a growing realisation among policy-makers that stability should be the prime objective, but he warned against "uncautious" efforts to force a swifter rate of economic growth at the price of inflation.

Mr. Witteveen said emphasis must be given to restoring price stability if the world economic recovery was to continue. He pointed out that inflation in the industrialised world would continue to rise at seven per cent this year.

He stressed that some countries -- most notably the United States, West Germany and

Japan -- should be prepared to take measures if the global recovery showed signs of slowing down.

Mr. Witteveen also made these points:

-- West Germany and Japan should allow their currencies to appreciate in value to help correct world payments imbalances.

-- The IMF's role should be expanded to help solve balance of payments problems created by rising oil prices and falling prices for many other commodities.

-- The surplus of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would total \$42 billion this year, compared to \$44 billion last year.

NEW YORK, May 12 (R). — Oil prices are still too low, judging from high world demand, OPEC's Secretary-General Ali M. Jaidah said yesterday.

Mr. Jaidah told a business luncheon that some member states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are increasingly concerned about their own domestic energy requirements.

"It is not reasonable to expect these countries to export their resources at low prices today and import energy at prohibitive prices in the future," he said.

Mr. Jaidah also touched on petrodollar surpluses owned by oil-rich countries. He said it was imperative that the oil exporters be guaranteed against erosion of their surpluses from inflation of currency fluctuations.

He said inflation was the biggest source of erosion of oil surpluses, "and if the necessary structural changes in the economies of industrialised countries are not made, then the prices of oil have to be adjusted periodically."

Saudi Arabia to invest in luxury Seychelles tourist complex

VICTORIA, Seychelles, May 12 (AFP). — Saudi Arabia wants to invest \$30 million in a luxury tourist complex in the Seychelles, the daily "Nation" reported today.

Saudi businessman Adnan Kashoggi arrived here yesterday to see President James Mancham, representing Saudi Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz, brother of King Khalid.

The National quoted the prince as saying the new complex would have no reason to envy Acapulco, the Mexican resort favoured by American jet setters.

President Mancham reportedly hopes to turn the Seychelles into a leisure centre to attract foreigners working in Arab Gulf states. Mr. Kashoggi is planning to build his own hotel in the Seychelles.

Air traffic controllers strike paralyses Australia's airports for the sixth day

ADELAIDE, Australia, May 12 (R). — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser today called his cabinet into emergency session here as a pay strike by air traffic controllers paralysed the country's airports for the sixth day.

The government, determined to get skeleton services operating, was expected to complete plans to call in the air force to fly passengers to the island state of Tasmania -- cut off from mainland Australia by the stoppage.

But the strike, which has stranded thousands of passengers in Australia and overseas and cost airlines millions of dollars in lost revenue, seemed likely to spread to other industries if the government stood firm on its threat to bring in the air force.

Union leaders warned that the use of servicemen would be regarded as strike-breaking and could herald all-out confrontation between the unions and the government.

Labour opposition leader Gough Whitlam described the proposal to bring in the air force as "utterly provocative and inflammatory."

Mr. Bob Garlick, spokesman for the 900 traffic controllers who went on strike last Friday night in support of demands for a 36 per cent pay rise, said that air force intervention would only escalate the dispute.

In an attempt to head off the use of military aircraft, the Australian Federation of Airline Pilots offered to operate emergency air services to Tasmania and isolated areas in the outback of Western Australia without pay.

But Mr. Fraser and his top ministers were apparently determined to get some air services moving again by one means or another.

The government was also considering moves to introduce legislation in parliament -- now in recess -- to make Australia's air traffic control system part of the country's national security system on lines similar to the United States.

In the U.S. air traffic controllers under national security laws can be jailed or fined if they strike.

Australia's two major domestic airlines -- Trans-Australia Airlines (TAA) and Ansett -- laid off more than 10,000 employees, including most pilots, without pay today under orders given by the national arbitration and conciliation commission.

Iraqi paper discourages Arab participation in new IMF fund

BAGHDAD, May 12 (R). — The Iraqi newspaper Al-Thawra yesterday urged Arab oil producing countries against participating in the new fund being set up by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help countries with balance of payments problems.

The ruling Baath Party paper said the fund would be of greater advantage to capitalist states than to developing nations and was aimed at depleting the coffers of oil countries.

In an article quoted by the Iraq news agency, the paper said the United States had exerted pressure on some Arab oil producing countries and some European industrial states with the aim of placing 12,000 million dollars at the disposal of the IMF to help it give additional loans to developing countries.

It recalled that a similar plan was introduced in 1974 at the initiative of the IMF and with the support of the industrial states. Most member states of OPEC -- the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries -- then presented the bulk of the funds earmarked for the plan in 1974 and 1975.

The paper added: "While the accumulated funds should have gone to developing nations which have been affected by the international economic crisis provoked by the industrial states, the exact opposite had happened."

A "stunning paradox" was that the IMF had asked countries applying for loans to reduce their consumption of oil. "The new plan naturally aims at exhausting the remainder of funds of the oil states, particularly the Gulf States," the paper added.

U.S. oil imports rise sharply in the first quarter of this year

WASHINGTON, May 12 (R). — The United States' trade deficit with the Middle East and North Africa widened dramatically in the first three months of this year, the Commerce Department reported today.

American imports from the 18 nations in the area exceeded exports by \$1.7 billion in the January to March period, the department said, compared with a \$390 million deficit for the same period last year.

Higher oil imports accounted for much of the deficit

increase, but another factor was the sharp reversal in the U.S. trading position with Iran. This changed from a \$360 million American surplus for the first quarter last year to a \$32 million deficit this year.

The total U.S. trade deficit with the whole world for the first quarter of this year was \$5.57 billion, without seasonal adjustments.

U.S. imports from the Middle East were worth \$4.62 billion and American exports to the area \$2.68 billion in the same period.

French council calls on companies to help reduce unemployment

PARIS, May 12 (AFP). — The French Employers' Council today called on companies to "mobilise" in order to bring down the unemployment figure of over one million to 700,000 by the end of the year.

Francois Ceyrac, President of the Council ("Patronat"), said that France was "emerging from the crisis" insofar as output, investment and exports had risen. But unemployment remained as high as it was in October 1975.

"Expansion is not enough on

its own to beat unemployment," he said. Companies must jointly work out "precise objectives and means" in the realm of jobs.

Companies had their role to play, but solving the unemployment problem did not depend on the employers' council. It would be overcome by local efforts.

Two suicides and three resignations indicate Swiss banking scandal bigger than expected

WASHINGTON, May 12 (R). — African elephants may soon become extinct unless the ivory trade is controlled, a British scientist with the world wildlife fund warned today.

Dr. Ian Douglas-Hamilton told a news conference the animals have been disappearing from many areas of Africa since the price of ivory rose to between \$30 and \$50 a kilo (2.2 pounds) in 1972.

Most of the continent's estimated one million elephants are in Tanzania, Zaire and Zambia, there are only about 7,000 left in South Africa, Dr. Douglas-Hamilton said.

GENEVA, May 12 (AFP). — Two suicides connected with the Banque Leclerc affair and three resignations from the Credit Suisse, indicate that the Swiss Banking imbroglio is bigger than initially thought.

Although shares in the banking sector appear to be holding up, the Swiss franc yesterday lost out to the dollar which closed at 2.5297 francs against Tuesday's close of 2.521.

The three Credit Suisse resignations are generally regarded as a step towards the "cleaning up" of the company. Those who quit are: Heinz Wuffli, President, Felix Schul-

thess, Honorary President, and Serge Demieville, Deputy Managing-Director.

The management had already lost substantial credibility with the news that its subsidiary in Chiasso placed capital with a Liechtenstein finance company called Texon which reinvested the money in Italian firms in difficulty.

Losses by Credit Suisse are now understood to be far higher than the 250 million francs (\$100 million) originally given. The prosecutor of Sottoceneri, Paolo Bernasconi, has said that four times as much had been placed with Texon by Credit Suisse since 1961 in terms of "guarantee."

The overall situation will remain unclear until the six investigating bodies in on the affair have completed their work.

The mystery surrounding the Leclerc Bank appears as deep as ever after the suicides of an associate, Bertrand de Mural, and a former Director Charles Bouchard.

The bank proved unable to meet its commitments due to a major withdrawal of deposits. This took place when it was learned that the name of the Chief Associate Mr. Leclerc was mentioned in connection with the murder in Paris of French aristocrat and political Jean de Broglie.

It was also learned that this associate put money into a winter sports resort and lost 10 million francs on the operation.

Some financial circles believe the two suicides indicate the affair is bigger than first thought.

There are rumours that the powerful Union des Banques Suisses (UBS), Credit Suisse and the Societe de Banque Suisse (SBS) are involved in the Leclerc affair.

TEHRAN, May 12 (AFP). — Iran has established a 50-mile fishing zone it was announced here today. The measure will in particular affect fishing boats from Norway, the Soviet Union, North Korea and Pakistan, Iranian newspapers predicted. In narrow parts of the Gulf, the zone will be narrower to keep it from overlapping fishing zones of Arab states.

NICOSIA, May 12 (AFP). — A commercial airliner took off here today for the first time since the Cyprus war front advanced to the airport in July, 1974. Turkish officials late last year authorised the take-offs of two Trident airliners when Cyprus Airways sold them to British Airways. The second craft will leave after being restored to flying condition.

LONDON, May 12 (AFP). — The British government's external debt was \$22,200 million on April 1, the treasury announced today. The figure includes \$11,500 million in international market borrowing, which in turn includes \$3,200 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), \$3,500 million from the Euro-Currency Market and \$680 million from sterling balance holders. Borrowing by nationalised bodies and other public organisations from abroad was \$10,700 million.

HONG KONG, May 12 (AFP). — Hong Kong, suffering its worst drought this century, may begin rationing water next month if the scorch continues. Water supplies director W.D.A. Tucker told a news conference here today that a contingency plan would be put into effect unless there were a minimum of six inches of rainfall in the next three weeks.

TEHRAN, May 12 (Pars News Agency). — The National Iranian Oil company released today the figures of Iran's oil production and exports for the month of April. The average daily production reached 5,411,312 barrels of which 538,735 barrels were produced by Sirip, Iran Pan American Oil Company, LAFICO, and MINOCO, the joint venture operating companies. Exports of crude oil stood at 4,330,750 barrels daily, and the direct exports by the NIOC at 1,082,740 barrels.

U.S. abstains on vote for World Bank loan to Ethiopia

WASHINGTON, May 12 (AFP). — The U.S. delegation abstained in a vote by the World Bank governing body yesterday on \$57 million in loans to Ethiopia, to mark its "grave concern regarding the human rights situation there," state department spokesman Fred Brown said today.

The loans were approved nonetheless and will be accorded through the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's soft-loan affiliate.

The spokesman said that taking Ethiopia's difficult economic situation into account, "the U.S., rather than opposing the loans, showed disapproval by abstaining."

The loans are expected to be announced officially later this week. They are a \$32 million credit for construction or repair of 8,000 kms. (5,000 miles) of road and a \$25 million loan to finance irrigation of 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres) of farmland.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

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LONDON, May 12 (AFP). — The British government's external debt was \$22,200 million on April 1, the treasury announced today. The figure includes \$11,500 million in international market borrowing, which in turn includes \$3,200 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), \$3,500 million from the Euro-Currency Market and \$680 million from sterling balance holders. Borrowing by nationalised bodies and other public organisations from abroad was \$10,700 million.

HONG KONG, May 12 (AFP). — Hong Kong, suffering its worst drought this century, may begin rationing water next month if the scorch continues. Water supplies director W.D.A. Tucker told a news conference here today that a contingency plan would be put into effect unless there were a minimum of six inches of rainfall in the next three weeks.

TEHRAN, May 12 (Pars News Agency). — The National Iranian Oil company released today the figures of Iran's oil production and exports for the month of April. The average daily production reached 5,411,312 barrels of which 538,735 barrels were produced by Sirip, Iran Pan American Oil Company, LAFICO, and MINOCO, the joint venture operating companies. Exports of crude oil stood at 4,330,750 barrels daily, and the direct exports by the NIOC at 1,082,740 barrels.

Aramco reports a 22.6 per cent rise in production over 1975

WASHINGTON, May 12 (R). — The Arabian American Oil Company, which accounts for all but a small fraction of Saudi Arabia's oil production,

Lebanon signs trade and aid agreement with EEC

BEIRUT, May 12 (R). — Lebanese Foreign Minister Fuad Buitros returned here last night after signing a trade and aid agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC) in Brussels.

Under the agreement, Lebanon will receive 39 million Units of Account (U.A.) (\$33 million).

Mr. Buitros appealed to the EEC for a further 100 million U.A. (\$110 million) in credits to help reconstruct Lebanon after the civil war.

said yesterday it produced 3.05 billion barrels of oil last year, a 22.6 per cent rise over 1975.

Aramco said in its annual report that its average daily production was 8.34 million barrels. The company, jointly owned by the Saudi government and four Western oil companies, accounts for 95 per cent of Saudi oil output.

This year, Saudi Arabian production has increased still further.

Aramco said proven reserves last year rose by 2.3 billion barrels to a total 110.2 billion barrels. Probable oil reserves, which include the proven reserves figure, rose 1.7 billion barrels to 177.5 billion barrels.

The Aramco figures confirmed Saudi Arabia as the world's second largest oil producer, behind the Soviet Union which produces about 10.1 to 10.5 million barrels a day.

Aramco said it spent more than two billion dollars for new plants, property and equipment last year, and that total spending for itself and for the government rose 77 per cent over the 1975 figure.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices were mixed Thursday on the New York stock exchange where the industrial average ended the day on a loss of more than one point after a decline of over five points at the opening.

Trading was heavier than on previous sessions. Analysts said worries over a possible increase in the prime interest rate helped depress the market in the morning. But buying increased later in the day as traders moved in to take advantage of lower prices.

Declines outnumbered advances at the close by a 683 to 647 margin.

Most groups of shares ended the day on a mixed tone. Among the most active issues, Sony lost 3/8 at 8-7/8.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 925.54, a loss of 1.35 points; Transap at 240.12, a gain of 0.10; utilities at 110.24, a gain of 0.32; 21,980,000 shares changed hands, of which 4,870,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

There was limited business in after hours trading, dealers said. Industrials were narrowly mixed while oils have eased up to 4p on light profit taking. Government bonds firmed 1/16 to 1/8 along shorter maturities.

The F.T. index at the close was up 13.6 at 470.2, the highest since June 12, 1973.

Shell was the initial feature following the group's first quarter results. It ended 13p up having been 15p higher.

ICI, Glaxo, Hawker, Beecham, investments and Metal Box rose between 17p and 18p. Banks firmed up to 8p while insurances rose up to 10p.

North Sea oil orientated issues met renewed demand. Thomson organisation gained 23p while oil exploration added 20p.

Price of gold closed in London Thursday at \$147.28/oz.

Military aid to Zaire caps international effort to stave off country's financial collapse

Zaire is more than two billion in debt. This is the overriding factor that has prompted the U.S. and other nations to go to the aid of President Mobutu. A large amount is owed to private U.S. banks and since last June financial experts have been working overtime to reschedule the debts. This article tracks the depth of private sector American involvement in the Zaire crisis.

By Robert A. Manning

WASHINGTON (Gemin) — An array of international aid led by France, Belgium, the U.S., Morocco and Sudan has provided military backing for the defence of Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko in the two-month old conflict against anti-government rebels in mineral-rich Shaba province.

While the reason generally given for this intervention is fear of "Soviet expansion" in Africa, evidence suggests one main motive is to prevent financial collapse of Zaire. It is more than \$2 billion in debt. Western, and particularly, U.S. financiers fear that if Zaire goes bankrupt, the impact and significance would be far-reaching and affect other Third World nations, whose collective debt now is about \$180 billion. More than \$500 million is owed to private U.S. banks.

Since last June, IMF officials and private banks have been working overtime to reschedule Zaire's debts and put that nation on the road to recovery.

In the midst of the fighting in Shaba province, Irving Friedman, of New York's Citibank and chief architect of the financial programme to bail-out Mobutu, flew to Zaire to meet Mobutu. After his visit, Friedman told his fellow-bankers involved in Zaire loan consortiums that "it would appear that the success of Mobutu's economic programme hinges on the outcome of the Shaba affair."

Last June officials of all the Western governments involved met in Paris to "reschedule" Zaire's debts. They agreed to allow Zaire a delay of up to 10 years for payments due in 1975-6 to foreign governments. But that agreement did not cover debts to commercial banks.

So 13 "agent banks" which had organised loans to Zaire by 98 global banks sent a joint telex to Mobutu in August demanding to meet with Zaire officials to discuss the financial situation. The agent banks -- half of them American -- had previously agreed to coordinate their case.

The unprecedented meeting -- it was the first time private bankers had met with a defaulting nation -- hoped to get back some of the money early, though it had been expected that a rescheduling would be necessary.

After several meetings in the

following month, Irving Friedman disclosed that he had made a deal with Mobutu. His plan provided that Zaire would accept strict economic policies and management reforms required by an IMF "stabilisation" programme and would have to pay back interest and principal it owed (about \$150 million) by early this year.

In return, Citibank would lead an effort to raise \$250 million in new capital funds for Zaire. Friedman has claimed that some of the money would be used to rejuvenate the economy rather than just pay back old debts. Other banks doubted this possibility, their distrust based on Mobutu's historically lavish prestige spending and economic mismanagement.

Mobutu signed a letter accepting IMF conditions -- which included sharp cuts in government spending and tight money credit policies -- earlier this year.

But the fighting in Shaba province, where the bulk of Zaire's vast resources -- cobalt, manganese, zinc, uranium, tin and most of all copper -- that accounts for 70 per cent of Zaire's foreign exchange -- are located, have cast a shadow on new financing plans.

Recently the IMF enacted the first phase of the stabilisation programme, approving an \$86 million loan to Zaire. How much of that will go towards footing the bill for the fighting in Shaba is not known.

Although New York bankers claim that they ask no favours of the government in protecting their financial stakes, there is little doubt that the presence of private American capital weighs heavily on U.S. decision-making.

In 1975, when in the midst of the Angola conflict, the State Department requested \$80 million in emergency aid to Zaire. The threat to U.S. financial interests was prominently cited by State Department officials. It is an open secret that Washington has encouraged the booming private investments in Zaire.

As late as last July, when Zaire was at the height of its deepest economic troubles, the U.S. embassy in Kinshasa declared that Zaire "continues to offer good prospects to the far-sighted supplier and investor."

Citibank's Zaire expert has been spending a day each week in Washington exchanging views and information with the State and Treasury Departments. At least a dozen banks are in regular contact with the State Department about Zaire.

One department official admitted there was "reasonable" coordination between banks and the government saying: "Our interests are not identical, but they are not opposed and they are not separate."

Zaire's "American connection" runs deep, and private and public roles often are nebulous, with former U.S. officials playing large roles on behalf of private business. Larry Devin, former chief of the CIA station in Kinshasa, the largest in Africa, is now the Zaire representative for New York entrepreneur Maurice Templeman, on a salary of nearly \$100,000 a year.

Although postponed due to the economic situation, Templeman got the contract to organise the huge \$700 million Tenke Fungurume copper mining complex in Shaba province, and the U.S. led the multinational consortium organised by Templeman, edging out traditional Belgian interests.

Although the financial collapse of Zaire could be absorbed without any real danger to and individual lender or the international financial system, the big fear is that, given the enormity of Third World debts, it could be a blow to investor confidence. In major commercial banks, which in recent years have played a large and growing role in loans to foreign governments.

President Carter has said that U.S. decisions to send \$15 million in emergency aid were "not part of any co-ordinated plan" and French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing reacted indignantly when confronted with the charge that France's intervention was prompted by the U.S. "Goldfinger."

Yet given the stakes involved and the circumstantial evidence -- meetings between Vance and Giscard in late March, meetings between top U.S. and French officials, Arab war leader's visit to Washington before his pledge of support and the close ties of Morocco and Sudan to France and the U.S. -- many observers wonder if the rapid military intervention reflected the co-ordinated economic bail-out.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Robert Manning is a freelance journalist who writes on international affairs and U.S. policies. He has been a correspondent for UPI, and currently comments on world affairs for Pacific Radio. His articles have appeared in numerous publications including the Los Angeles Times, Le Monde Diplomatique, Far Eastern Economic Review, African Development and others.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 15, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to make sure you don't get involved in a difficult situation that could take up too much of your time. Live according to accepted principles in which you believe.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid trying to get others to see things your way at any cost. You can formulate a fine plan that will give you more abundance.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Ideal time for philosophical studies that are helpful to you. Outline a plan that will help you gain your aims.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Show your good friends that you are devoted to them. Take time to enjoy the quiet pleasure of the day. Express happiness.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Handle civic affairs that will improve your position in the community. Plan how to improve in your vocation.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Do those things that will help you gain the goodwill of others. Study ways that will bring greater self-expression. Be logical.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your intuition is not accurate early in the day so don't rely on it until later. Show more thought for loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be more optimistic and get better results when dealing with others. Take time to engage in your favorite hobby.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study ways to have greater abundance in the days ahead. Taking health treatments to improve vitality is wise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Taking part in wholesome pleasures now can help solve a problematical affair of long standing. Be happy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take the extra time needed to complete important work you have to do at home. Showing more devotion to mate is wise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Engage in lofty philosophical studies early in the day. Take time to figure a way to put your financial affairs on a sound basis.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Put practical ideas to work in handling routine duties. The evening is fine for personal enjoyment. Be charming with others.

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TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

KOJAK: SISTER MARIA

A young woman disguised as a nun, avenges her sister's murder.

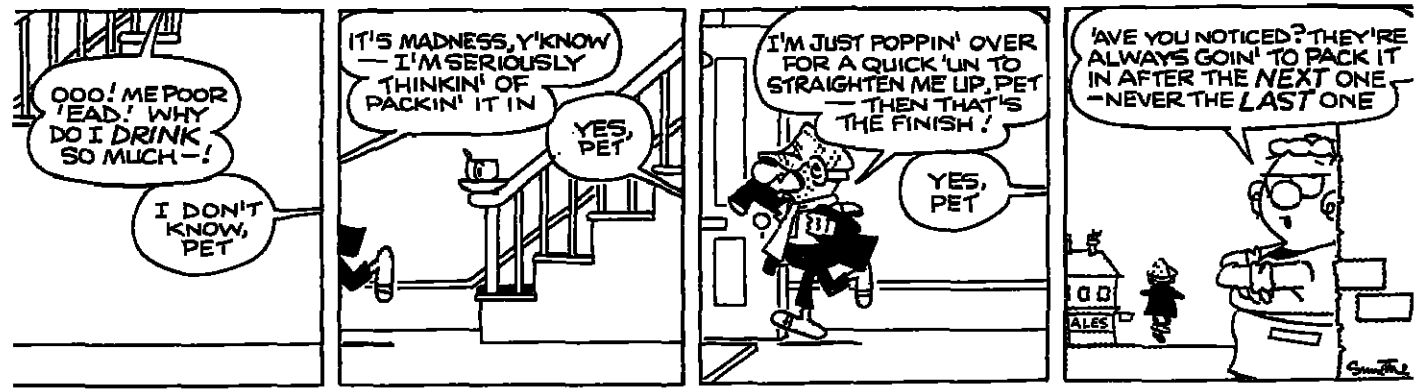
GUNSMOKE: THE NOOSE

Young man kidnaps mayor and town doctor who were the cause of his innocent father's hanging.

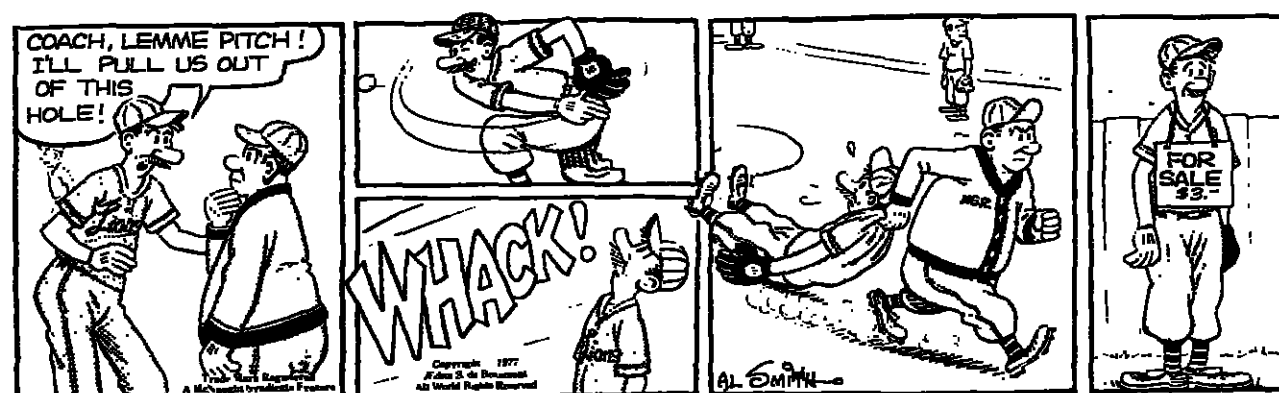
PEANUTS



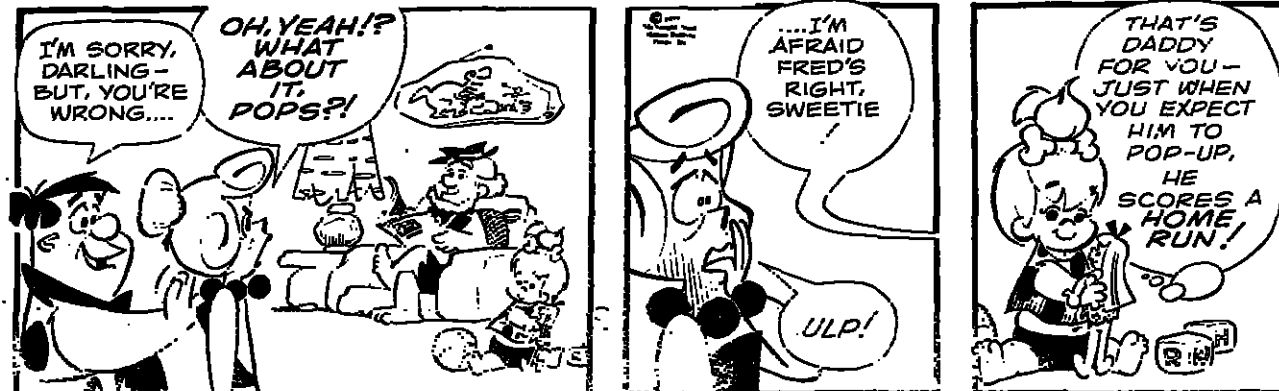
ANDY GAPP



MUTT & JEFF



THE FLINTSTONES

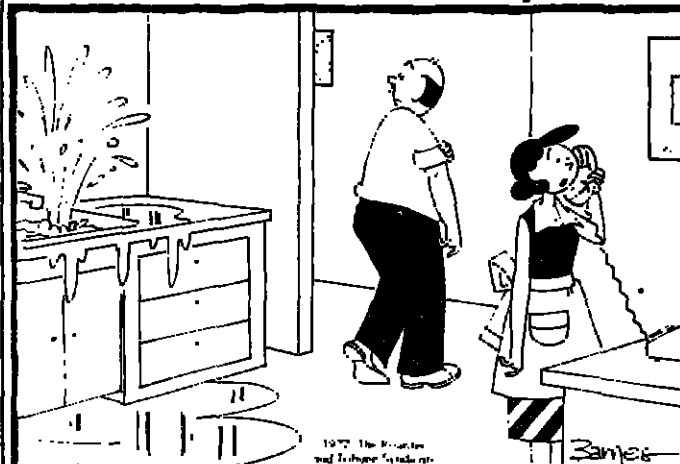


LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



ENGLAND
Clayton

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



WORLD RECORD

The largest stamps ever issued were the 1913 Express Delivery stamps of China, which measured 247.5 by 69.8 mm. (9 1/2 by 2 1/8 inch).

GORED BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 876
♥ AKQ
♦ KJ72
♣ AK7

WEST
♠ KQ9543
♥ 105
♦ Q94
♣ 10

EAST
♠ 10
♥ 86432
♦ 3
♣ 986532

SOUTH
♠ AJ
♥ J97
♦ A10865
♣ QJ4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠.

Logical deduction is no substitute for cold hard facts, as declarer found to his cost on this hand from a recent rubber bridge game.

North was slightly aggressive in driving to slam after West had made a weak jump overall in spades. There were combinations of cards that would have left declarer with no play for twelve tricks at no trump, especially since North's only long suit rated to duplicate his partner's holding. As it was, the contract depended only on declarer's ability to locate the queen of diamonds.

West led the king of spades, won by the ace. Declarer reasoned that, since West was marked with spade length, he was more likely to be short in diamonds. Accordingly, he led

to the king of diamonds and returned a diamond. East's failure to follow proved to be a mortal blow. Declarer cashed his nine winners and conceded the last four tricks to West for down three. He complained bitterly about his fate.

While the fates were, perhaps, unkind, declarer gave the hand somewhat less than the best play. Instead of committing himself early to a guess in the diamond suit, he should have set out to

learn as much as possible about the hand.

Correct technique is to duck the first spade lead and win the second. Next, he cashes his six tricks in hearts and clubs. These

maneuvers will permit declarer to guarantee the contract. He will have learned that West started with

seven spades (East showed out on the second round), two hearts and one club. Therefore, West has to have

three diamonds.

Declarer cashes the ace of diamonds in case East was dealt a singleton queen.

When the lady does not appear, declarer can finesse the jack of diamonds next.

knowing it must win. Now the suit runs and twelve tricks roll in.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

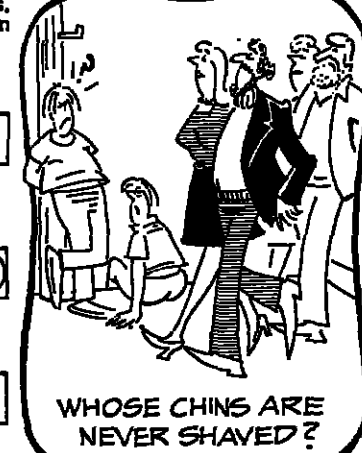
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CIDDE

URUGA

SNEWT

WHYNOA



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: BUXOM SIXTY COOPER PRYING

Answer: What a guy who steals a watch might be expected to do—TIME

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Knight

4. Punish severely

7. Armadillo

11. Of no service

13. Breaker

14. Paramount

15. Trouble spot

16. Field of endeavor

17. Eggs

19. Algonquian

20. Opposed to weather

21. Unskilled

23. Divine Being

24. Well-bred woman

25. Iber

27. Novel

28. Choral compositions

30. Entertainer

33. Armpit

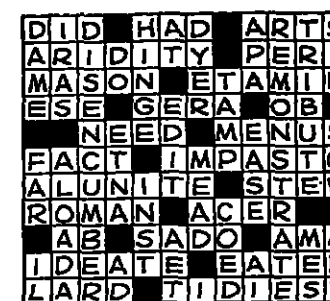
34. Indefinite amount

35. Nut

36. Props

38. Rebuked

40. Arrow poison



SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

DOWN

1. Cordage fiber

2. Accustom

3. Indian monetary unit

4. Fasten

5. Flavoring

6. Pass a rope through

7. Milkish

8. Reluctant to bid

9. Birdhouse

10. Respond

12. Pewter coin

18. Spindles

21. Particles

22. Handle rudely

23. Channel

25. Lead

26. Wild ass

27. To wit

28. Warm

29. Potato

30. Recurring theme

31. French student

32. Burdened

35. Anchor tackle

37. Murderer of Osiris

39. Scottish explorer

Par time 25 min AP Newsfeatures

OUT AND ABOUT

ELITE STEAKHOUSE

First Wings Hotel, Jabel Al Lawleh. Tel. 22103/4. Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a la carte. Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.

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Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabel Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21063. Jabel Al Lawleh, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 30646. Jabel Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema. Tel. 21781. Also in Zarka and Irbid.

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The fashionable restaurant for you. Gehadaya Bank Street. Tel. 2187. AQABA. Open for lunch & dinner. Specialty: Italian cuisine. Live music and dancing.

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First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabel Amman, near the Abilayah School or CMS. Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service—order by phone.

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First Circle, Jabel Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38869. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



TWO-WHEEL ROLLER SKATES ARE NOISELESS AND FUN -- These two-wheel roller skates are virtually noiseless and great fun, not to mention a keep fit aid. They are like ice skates in that angles just do not "give" once skaters are fastened to shoes or sneakers.

GRAFFITI

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PROVERB

Don't get stuck with something you can't get rid of or costs you more than it's worth.

SALT talks resume today

GENEVA, May 12 (R). — United States and Soviet nuclear weapons negotiators prepared today for the first plenary session in a new series of strategic arms limitation (SALT) talks following a private meeting yesterday between delegation heads.

Mr. Paul C. Warnke, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency head, and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Semionov agreed to hold a meeting tomorrow of their full five-member delegations of diplomats, military men and scientists.

The two top negotiators spent one hour and 40 minutes together at the Soviet dip-

lomatic mission discussing a work programme for the talks, resuming after a recess of nearly six months.

They told reporters they would try to make progress towards a new SALT agreement limiting the two superpowers' nuclear arsenals before an existing five-year pact runs out next October.

The negotiations are stalled largely over differences about whether and how to count Soviet Backfire bombers and low-flying U.S. Cruise missiles in total weapons to be allowed each side in the new agreement.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko are due to meet here next Wednesday.

day, and Mr. Warnke has said he expects these talks will give "a distinct policy push to the entire course of the negotiations."

On arrival in Geneva Mr. Warnke, appointed SALT delegation head last March, said the U.S. was still offering two alternative proposals for breaking the deadlock, put forward by Mr. Vance in Moscow last March but turned down by the Soviet Union.

One called for substantial reductions in the nuclear arsenals of both countries below a level of 2,400 inter-continental missiles and bombers, with 1,320 missiles fitted with multiple warheads (MIRVs), agreed at a summit meeting in Vladivostok in November 1974.

The other proposal was to conclude a limited agreement to meet the October expiry date of the current SALT pact.

Ethiopian troops flee to Sudan, paper says

KHARTOUM, May 12 (Agencies). — Another 75 Ethiopian army deserters fled into Sudan from Eritrea yesterday, some bringing their wives and children, the daily Al Sahafa reported here today.

The troops' arrival at Kassala near the border brought to 122 the number who have sought refuge here from the secessionist Ethiopian Red Sea Province in one week.

Last Friday 47 men of various ranks took refuge in Sudan after Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) forces overwhelmed a garrison at Ali Gidder just across the Ethiopian border. Al

Sahafa said all the deserters handed over their arms and ammunition to the Sudanese authorities. It said 26 women and a number of children accompanied the men and all were being well treated in Sudan.

More than 200 Ethiopian soldiers deserted to Sudan earlier in the year after Eritrean guerrillas attacked outlying garrisons.

Meanwhile an ELF source here said the front's troops had occupied two Ethiopian camps at Barentu in central Eritrea last Friday after heavy fighting.

A third camp in the area was on the point of falling to the Eritreans, Al Sahafa said. According to the paper, 175 Ethiopian soldiers from the camp had already surrendered telling their captors they were running short of "military supplies".

ELF forces had already seized Barentu's airport and other installations, the report said. In a separate development, Addis Ababa Radio said yesterday that militiamen and troops had killed 53 "reactionaries" in a gunfight on Tuesday in the mountainous Wollo region north of the capital.

"Among the dead were three ring-leaders of the criminal gang of former landlords who have been engaged in looting and other bandit activities in the district," the radio said, monitored in London.

Ethiopia's Marxist leaders recently launched a fresh campaign to root out elements opposed to the government which took power 30 months ago.

Nixon appears on T.V. again

WASHINGTON, May 12 (R). — Former President Richard Nixon tonight plays, in a nationally televised interview show, the role by which he wants most to be remembered — a conqueror in the international arena of big power politics.

It will be his second encounter in successive weeks with British television personality David Frost. The first plumbed the depths of the Watergate scandals but the second is devoted to Mr. Nixon's foreign policy triumphs.

Mr. Nixon and Mr. Frost could each earn as much as \$1 million from the sale of the four-interview series. Tonight's 90-minute programme will be broadcast over 155 television stations.

To avoid clashing with the broadcast, the White House rescheduled a television press conference by President Carter originally due to start at the same time.

Newsweek magazine, given access to the transcript of the taped first interview shows, said Mr. Nixon tonight will cover his dealings with the late Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung, the Middle East, U.S.-Soviet relations and America's protracted agony over Indochina.

Standards of world health are going down, WHO told

GENEVA, May 12 (R). — Health standards for the world's population are beginning to go down despite medical advances, Prof. Giovanni Canaperia of Italy told international health experts here yesterday.

Prof. Canaperia, speaking after he received an award from the World Health Organisation (WHO) for achievement in

social medicine, told the WHO Annual Assembly: "Medicine is going through a crisis, a major crisis calling for a reform of its objectives and its structures."

"The health status of populations has not improved," Prof. Canaperia said. "On the contrary, it is beginning to show signs of deterioration."

Death rates remained stationary, while the number of sick people increased and demand for medical care was constantly growing, he told the assembly of WHO's 150 member states.

"The cost of delivering care has reached a level that is intolerably high even for the richest countries," Prof. Canaperia warned the health experts. "We must replace waiting for the patient to come to our consulting units by intervention medicine."

Doctors should step in more often in communities to stop harmful ways of life, he said. Prof. Canaperia, one of the original signatories of the 1946 document which brought the WHO into being, was making his acceptance speech on receiving the Leon Bernard Foundation Award.

The award was established in memory of a founder of the former League of Nations Health Organisation.

Islamic meeting will discuss Manila peace

JEDDAH, May 12 (R). — The Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference, which opens in the Libyan capital of Tripoli on Monday, will discuss a report on the troubled southern Philippines accusing Manila of breaking an agreement with Moslem rebels.

Conference Secretary General Ahmadou Karim Gaye said before leaving here for Tripoli yesterday that it is up to the foreign ministers to decide whether the conference should continue its efforts to mediate in the dispute. He gave no more details of the report.

At least two of the conference's 42 members — Egypt and Sudan — have said they will not go to Tripoli for the meeting. Both countries have very bad relations with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Topics before the ministers at the four-day meeting will also include Jerusalem.

Britain, U.S. plan joint new initiative on Rhodesia

LONDON, May 12 (AFP). — Britain and the U.S. yesterday announced plans to set up a joint consultative group in Southern Africa to try to push through a transition to majority rule in Rhodesia.

British Foreign Secretary David Owen told the House of Commons that the Anglo-American group will leave for Southern Africa next week.

It will be headed by Mr. John Graham, Assistant Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, in cooperation with a U.S. State Department official, he said.

The American official has not yet been named.

Dr. Owen said the group would step up talks with interested parties in Southern Africa, including the present Rhodesian administration.

The joint Anglo-American initiative provides for majority rule in the white-ruled rebel British colony in 1978.

A State Department statement in Washington said that Dr. Owen and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had decided that there should now be "a phase of intensive consultations with the parties involved in the transfer of power."

"Both the British and American governments wish to reiterate their common determination to work for the independence of Rhodesia under

majority rule in 1978," it said. Dr. Owen emphasised to the Commons that the new initiative was a "joint enterprise" agreed between Premier James Callaghan and U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Talks last week with Mr. Vance on Rhodesia had ended with a "full agreement," said Dr. Owen.

Both Britain and the U.S. had been encouraged by contacts with various interested parties and were convinced of the need for detailed consultations on a new constitution for an independent Rhodesia and on the necessary transitional measures.

Observers noted that, in an apparent move to appease Rhodesian African nationalist leaders opposed to direct American participation in any future constitutional conference on Rhodesia, Dr. Owen stressed that he would be the person to whom Mr. Graham would present his report.

He also added: "I still am ready to chair any conference were we to decide that is the right way to do it."

Dr. Owen failed to name any target date for independence or for the setting up of a transition government.

He also avoided giving details of the electoral process envisaged for Rhodesia although he spoke of general elections or a test of public opinion such as that used by the Pearce Commission in 1972.

Observers interpreted Dr. Owen's reticence as a desire not to be apparently supporting the idea of a referendum, proposed by nationalist leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa but opposed by the Patriotic Front of Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe.

Observers added that Dr. Owen was also reluctant to indicate how long the new initiative was planned to take for fear of sparking off controversy at the London Commonwealth summit in June.

S. AFRICAN F.M. WINS BY-ELECTION

JOHANNESBURG, May 12 (R). — South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha yesterday won a seat in parliament with the highest majority ever recorded by a candidate of the ruling Nationalist Party.

Mr. Botha defeated the extreme rightwing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) candidate, Mr. Mackie Nel, by 9,126 votes to 652 in a straight fight.

In a brief address he told his supporters: "I see the result as a mandate to move away from race discrimination in South Africa and to be determined to stick by our rights for survival against external onslaughts."

A former South African ambassador to the United States, 44-year-old Mr. Botha received more votes than the 8,800 won by Prime Minister John Vorster in the 1974 South African general election.

"Please, Arab sir, don't dry your laundry on the balcony of this luxury London hotel"

LONDON, May 2 (AFP). — Arab visitors to London must not dry their laundry by hanging it out on the balcony of their luxury Mayfair hotel suites, says a guide book to be published next month for Arabs anxious to avoid misunderstandings with their English hosts.

Neither must they push ahead of others in theatre queues and they must pay for their purchases before leaving a shop, explains the guide book being put out jointly, says the London Evening News, by the Arab Publishing Company and the London Tourist Office.

The newspaper reports the appalled shock of a wealthy London resident living in a luxury block of flats, who came down for his morning dip to find an Arab guest washing his clothes in the swimming pool.

But the Arab visitors, mostly from the Gulf states, remain, of course, welcome visitors of the British capital where they spent last year a reported £156 million.

London reels under the strains of summitry

By Ronald Thomson

LONDON, May 12 (R). — A summit a day keeps boredom at bay, but a surfeit of summits gives a touch of indigestion even to this worldly old capital.

Most Londoners reacted favourably to a five-day diet of presidents and premiers, but the menu was too rich for some.

According to one medical expert analysing the summitry syndrome, the outcome was a complete sense of unreality.

British Prime Minister James Callaghan publicly described the president of Portugal as the leader of Brazil.

A television commentator the other day said: "This great gathering of Western leaders" while his cameras focussed unerringly on the face of Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda.

One Londoner queuing for coffee at a snack bar near conference headquarters complained that he was jostled by Chan-

cellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany. The jostler certainly looked like the chancellor but he turned out to be Mr. Walter Frith, a local plumber.

Tramps whose entry in Who's Who would list their residence as St. James's Park were under the constant threat of being trampled on by Canada's athletic Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, a fresh-air fiend who kept persuading fellow leaders to go for a stroll instead of lounging in limousines.

The one man nobody could mistake was President Carter, who drew the crowds and pressed the flesh and flashed the smile that stood him out from all the others.

"Good old Jimmy," chorused the crowds, and they didn't mean Mr. Callaghan.

Summitry finally peaked out in springtime London. It all began at the weekend when seven leaders of the non-communist industrial world assembled to debate the economic mess and decided that something should be done about it.

On Monday the government heads of the United States, Britain, France and West Germany met to discuss the special problems of Berlin.

That summit was half the size of the economic summit, which itself was dwarfed by the subsequent 15-nation NATO summit that began on Tuesday.

In the meantime President Carter had sneaked in a summit of his own, flying to Geneva for talks with President Hafiz Assad of Syria.

On every side, private little summits were going on in London.

President Carter was again the star of this sideline summitry, holding separate meetings with leaders of France, West Germany, Britain, Greece, Turkey and Portugal.

If a private chat with NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns can be defined as a summit, he did that too.

Reporters covering the meetings became bemused by the

Concorde's N.Y. foes prepare legal battle

NEW YORK, May 12 (Agencies). — The operators of New York's Kennedy Airport today prepared a legal battle to keep supersonic Concorde off their runways.

The Port Authority to New York and New Jersey, which runs the airport, said it would appeal against a judge's ruling yesterday permitting the Anglo-French plane to land here.

District Court Judge Milton Pollack ruled that the authority did not have the right to ban the plane because the federal government has given Concorde a trial landing period of 16 months.

British Airways and Air France, which say landing rights at New York are vital for the aircraft's future, announced last night that the plane would make its New York debut on June 20.

The port authority, politicians and New Yorkers living in the airport's vicinity vowed to try to stop the plane landing here. Concorde already flies from Paris and London to Washington's Dulles Airport.

A spokesman for Concorde opponents, lawyer Brian Levinson, said he would try to have the plane's pilots arrested if it violated airport noise limits. Judge Pollack said he would enter his ruling into the court record within 10 days, after

which the port authority can ask him to stay the ruling pending an appeal.

If the judge refuses, the port authority can ask the U.S. Court of Appeals to hold the order until their appeal is heard — a move which could delay Concorde's maiden landing here on June 20.

British Trade Minister Edmund Dell yesterday greeted with delight and satisfaction the news that the U.S. court had ruled in favour of Concorde's landing in New York.

"I am delighted by Judge

Pollack's ruling," Mr. Dell said, "so far so good."

Within the next two or three weeks the British Concorde will begin training flights to familiarise its pilots with New York's Kennedy Airport.

"We do not think the people of New York have anything to fear from Concorde," a British Airways spokesman said. "It can only benefit the business community with a three-and-a-half hour link between two of the world's major business centres — London and New York."

South Africa grants visa to Andrew Young

WASHINGTON, May 12 (AFP). — South Africa has granted a visa for U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young to visit there during his current tour of Africa.

A State Department communique yesterday said that Mr. Young will visit South Africa from May 21. However his travel arrangements and schedule in South Africa were still being worked out.

Mr. Young arrived in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on the first stage of his African tour on Tuesday.

"La Pasionaria" given passport, leaves Moscow for Spain soon

MOSCOW, May 12 (R). — Exiled Spanish Communist leader Dolores Ibaruri, "La Pasionaria" of the Spanish civil war, was today issued with a passport to return to Spain, an embassy spokesman said.

The Spanish Europa Press Agency, citing Communist sources, reported from Madrid today that the 82-year-old Communist leader will return to Spain next week at the earliest.

A Spanish passport was also issued to her secretary, Senora Irene Falcon, the spokesman said the Moscow embassy said.

Senora Ibaruri, who has lived in exile in Moscow for nearly

40 years since the civil war ended, is reported to be planning to return to Spain following the legalisation of the Communist Party last month. She is the party president.

The embassy spokesman said neither Senora Ibaruri nor her secretary went to the embassy to collect the passports.

Senora Ibaruri went to Moscow in 1939 after the Spanish Republican government was overthrown by Falangist forces led by Gen. Franco.

The embassy spokesman said Senora Ibaruri's passport had been issued on the instruction of the Spanish government.

Spain and the Soviet Union

established full diplomatic relations in February, upgrading trade missions which had existed in Madrid and Moscow for the past three years.

Some 20,000 Spanish Republicans went to Moscow at the end of the civil war. There are believed to be only about 2,000 remaining but several hundred sons and daughters of the exiles have married non-Spanish Soviet citizens.

In Madrid, government sources confirmed that the embassy in Moscow had been authorised to give Senora Ibaruri a passport and that she was free to pick it up whenever she wanted to and return to Spain.

London meet fails to agree on plan for nuclear checks

WASHINGTON, May 12 (Agencies). — Efforts to agree on a nuclear non-proliferation plan failed to bear fruit in London last week when the world's 15 nuclear technology exporters met to discuss the matter, sources close to the U.S. delegation said today.

The sources said several of the 15 members of the so-called Nuclear Exporters' Club, including France, had opposed a plan that would have outlawed the sale of nuclear reactors to countries that refused regular inspection of their plants by an international authority.

The proposal was introduced by the Soviet Union and Britain, and supported by the United States, the sources said.

The London meeting, which lasted two days and preceded the seven-power economic summit, also looked at the new U.S. policy on plutonium and reprocessing of nuclear waste products.

U.S. delegate Joseph Nye let it be known that Washington would study on a case-by-case basis all requests for reprocessing of radioactive wastes formulated by other countries.

To strengthen safety precautions, Mr. Nye told the meeting that the U.S. would seek new agreements with nations that had abstained from signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Among the countries targeted, the sources said, were Brazil, South Africa, Israel and India.

Meanwhile, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt today called for developing countries to be included in new talks aimed at further controlling the spread of nuclear weapons.

Reporting to the Bundestag on results of the London summit, he said such discussions "cannot be conducted by the industrial states alone."

Last weekend leaders of the seven leading non-communist industrial nations represented at the London talks ordered experts to prepare a report within two months on means of increasing international controls over nuclear technology exports.

Herr Schmidt stressed in his speech to the Bundestag that this report would only represent a preliminary analysis, and that quick results were out of the question because of the

complexity of the subject.

He said talks on stepping up controls against nuclear proliferation should particularly include the Third World's atomic "threshold" countries — states which have the ability to make nuclear bombs or could be expected to do so within the foreseeable future.

The inclusion of Third World countries in these discussions was logical since participants in the London summit had agreed that nuclear non-proliferation measures had to be acceptable to both industrial and developing states, he added.

West Germany has agreed to sell Brazil nuclear reprocessing facilities, which could provide it with plutonium for making atomic bombs. The U.S.

administration has asked West Germany to call off this part of the deal, which also includes the supply of nuclear power and uranium enrichment plants.

Herr Schmidt said the London conferences had boosted the Western World's confidence in its ability to solve its economic difficulties.

Largely because of the row over the Brazilian deal, relations between the U.S. and West Germany had been strained before the London talks.

But in his speech today the chancellor praised President Jimmy Carter, whom he met for the first time in office at the weekend, as someone "who is tackling the problems of his country and the Western World with energy and vigour."

Heavy debts force closure of Sicily's anti-Mafia school

ROME, May 12 (R). — Italian social reformer Danilo Dolci, crusader for 25 years against poverty, ignorance and the Mafia, has decided to shut his revolutionary new school in Sicily because of heavy debts, his organisation announced yesterday.

The school, built in the heart of the island's Mafia country with funds raised from supporters around the world, was an attempt to create a new generation of children without the traditional mentality which the Mafia thrives upon.

A statement by Signor Dolci's study centre at Partinico in western Sicily said large sums of money promised for the school had not materialised and massive debts had accumulated.

The teachers and Signor Dolci's other staff have not been paid for eight months, it added.

Signor Dolci, 53, had informed teachers and parents that the school's activities would be suspended indefinitely from the end of the current term. But it was hoped that ways would be found to overcome the financial problems, the statement said.



PAROLE FOR PATRICIA — Miss Patricia Hearst leaves the Los Angeles court, Tuesday, which freed her on parole for a five-year term of charges of assault and robbery. Miss Hearst is flanked by private security guards. She is still under a seven-year prison term for robbing a San Francisco bank, a conviction which is presently before the appeals courts. (AP wirephoto)

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